



## **More than a decade of impunity: Torture and arbitrary detention in Yemen continue without accountability**

### **Joint statement by the Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**

**26 June 2026**

More than a decade after the outbreak of conflict in Yemen, thousands of survivors of torture, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearance continue to be denied justice and redress. This persists amid the absence of any effective accountability for the grave violations committed by all parties to the conflict. On the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the **Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition** reaffirms its commitment to opposing all forms of torture, cruel treatment, and unlawful detention, and to upholding the inalienable right of victims to justice, dignity, and reparation.

Despite Yemen entering its twelfth year of conflict, patterns of torture, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearance continue in a systematic manner, alongside a dangerous erosion of both domestic and international accountability mechanisms. This deepens the isolation of victims and entrenches a culture of impunity.

During 2026, the Houthi movement continued to detain dozens of humanitarian workers, including United Nations personnel. The [UN has confirmed](#) that at least 73 of its staff remain in arbitrary detention, some for years, without access to their families or legal representation. This [raises serious concerns](#) about enforced disappearance, ill-treatment, and torture.

Although an [UN-mediated agreement](#) in May 2026 led to the release of more than 1,600 detainees in the largest exchange since the beginning of the conflict, this step — while important on humanitarian grounds — does not address the root causes of this crisis: ongoing torture, unlawful detention, enforced disappearance, and the absence of accountability and justice. Release alone cannot be a substitute for justice.

At the same time, [human rights reporting](#) indicates that all parties to the conflict, including the Houthi movement, the Southern Transitional Council, and the internationally recognized government, continue to commit serious violations. These include arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, and ill-treatment against detainees, journalists, activists, and human rights defenders. This reflects a sustained and systematic pattern of abuse across areas of control. Recent trends also show an expansion of repression targeting marginalized social and religious groups, extending beyond traditional security contexts.



These violations are not limited to men. Women have also been subjected to documented cases of torture and degrading treatment, including prolonged solitary confinement, denial of medical care, psychological and physical abuse, and threats of sexual violence. These abuses occur in the absence of judicial oversight and amid continued detention in unofficial or secret facilities.

The persistence of these violations amid the absence of an independent judiciary, weakened international monitoring, and global silence reinforces a culture of impunity and undermines prospects for sustainable peace based on justice and respect for human rights.

Accordingly, the **Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition** calls on the United Nations, the Security Council, and all relevant Yemeni actors to take urgent measures to ensure:

- Immediate and unconditional release of all arbitrarily detained individuals.
- Independent and transparent investigations into cases of torture, deaths in custody, and enforced disappearances.
- Embedding accountability and the fight against impunity as a core pillar of any future political settlement.
- Establishment of an independent and effective mechanism to hold perpetrators of serious violations accountable and ensure justice and reparations for victims.

Silence on torture in Yemen, under the pretext of conflict complexity, amounts to complicity with injustice. Justice for victims is not a political option — it is a moral and essential requirement for achieving justice, reconciliation, and peace in Yemen.

### **Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition**

26 June 2026

- Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations
- Musaala Organization for Human Rights
- Al-Amal Women's and Sociocultural Foundation
- Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development
- Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism
- Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children
- Studies & Economic Media Center
- Wach for Human Rights Organization
- Abductees' Mother Association
- SAM Organization for Rights and Libertie